1:Spier E-5 (1929-1932) 1933 NT15 River Yumans NT15

Maricopa
Halchidhoma

As between Halchidhoma and
Maricopa, the former, situated on the banks of the Colorado, 226
were undoubtedly greater fishermen."[19] The information which follows relates specifically to the Halchidhoma in their Colorado River home. Maricopa habits were identical.

Native statements of the amount of fishing are borne out by Kino, who wrote of the middle Gila (February, 1699): "All its inhabitants are fishermen, and have many nets and other tackle with which they fish all the year, sustaining themselves with abundant fish and with their maize, beans, and calabashes, etc. . . . . In some places they gave us so much and so very good fish that we gave it as a ration to the men, just as beef is given where it is plentiful."[20] [175]

The Maricopa took fish mostly in the Santa Cruz slough at the northern foot of the Sierra Estrella. They also fished about the confluence of the Gila and Salt, and up the Salt to the vicinity of Phoenix. This point was, of course, close to enemy territory, hence many men were killed while fishing. Fish were few in the Gila except in times of flood. The fish of these streams [136] were chiefly chub, a soft fleshed, bony fish. The Halchidhoma on the Colorado also caught a very large fish, which may have been the "Colorado salmon."

Three methods were commonly employed for fishing on the Colorado. A small net like a rabbit net (and like it called ca'a'k) [227] was used when the river was high and muddy so that one could not see fish in it. It was held spread out between the hands, aided by a little stick at each side threaded through the meshes, so that the fisherman might reach down and catch at a chance. Another method was by diving to look into beaver holes and the like under the bank where fishes took refuge when it was cold. One man after another dove down, catching the fish in his hands. A third was with large nets (called davi'tc), six to eight feet long [227] and a yard deep. These were very valuable since it was hard to spin so much cotton cord. A pole was fastened at each end, so that it could be held vertically by two men who dragged it through shallow water. Several such nets might be dragged side by side. Other men would walk through the water scaring the

[19] The Mohave also fished more than they hunted (Kroeber, *Preliminary Sketch of the Mohave*, p. 276).

[20] Bolton, *Kino's Historical Memoir*, I, 195, 197.

1:Spier E-5 (1929-1932) 1933 NT15 River Yumans NT15
Maricopa

The rectangular baskets with lids in twilled, plaited weave and the sleeping mats made by the Pima[19] were not among Maricopa products. 285

VARIOUS TECHNIQUES AND TOOLS

Skin dressing.—Hides seem to have been but little used, not so much because deer and fur-bearing animals were rare, or that they were indifferent hunters, but because few articles were made of dressed skin. Correlatively the skin dressing process was rudimentary. Here again their habits coincide with the lower Colorado tribes. The upland tribes of Arizona were proficient workers in skins, those of the Colorado-Gila lowlands were not. 281 [171]

The uses of hides were few: the only uses cited were thongs, quiver, and shield. Rawhide sandals have come into use since cattle were obtained. [177]

A deer carcass was flayed by slitting down the belly from the neck, cutting along the inside of each leg, leaving the hoofs, but taking the head skin.

To tan the hide (k'wĭl,ă), the flesh side was spread with parched seeds of the giant cactus fruit (the residue after a drink was made from it) and the skin folded with the flesh side in. This was to absorb the grease (?). When opportunity came to work the skin, it was first soaked in water. It was then slung over a smooth slanting pole and the flesh side scraped with a sharpened stick, not a stone. The hair was probably removed with a split bone scraper. The hide was then pounded with a stone while lying folded on a flat rock, available only in the mountains. When it was soft, it was further worked by rubbing with the hands. My informant had heard that deer brains were sometimes used for tanning. Pumpkin seeds were not used, as by the Cocopa, nor were skins smoked or dyed. Skins were also tanned with the hair on: fox, coyote, wolf, and mountain lion. (There were no bears in Maricopa territory.) Skin dressing (k'wĭltamavĭstcu'm, "hide softening") was the work of men alone. [412] [136] [462]

Willow bark blankets may have been made, but it is very doubtful. Kutox described these, called xacĭl,ĕ'p, as made by 286

[19] Russell, *op. cit.*, pp. 93, 134, 145, 147.